

DURHAM COUNTY BOARD OF SOCIAL SERVICES
Minutes
April 27, 2011

The Durham County Board of Social Services held its regular meeting on Wednesday April 27, 2011, 8:30 a.m., at Main Street in Conference Room 609 Right. The following DSS Board Members were in attendance: Commissioner Joe W. Bowser, Chair Gladys Dunston, Vice Chair Gloria S. Green, Mr. Stan Holt and Mrs. Carolyn Carver-Tann.

The DCDSS Department was represented by the following: Director Gerri Robinson, Mrs. Sharon Hirsch, Mr. John Holtkamp, Ms. Betty Hughes, Ms. Rhonda Stevens, Mrs. Lynn Thomas, Mr. David Carter, Mrs. Cathy Simmons, Mr. Bob Wallace and Ms. Montrella R. Springfield.

Deputy County Attorney Danielle Briggs attended the Board meeting. Melody Butts from the Herald-Sun was present.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Gladys Dunston. Chair Dunston requested moving through the agenda quickly due to other obligations.

Chair Dunston welcomed Deputy County Attorney Danielle Briggs. Deputy County Attorney Briggs will be assisting DCDSS with Child Support cases, Contracts, along with other responsibilities. Welcome Mrs. Lynn Thomas to DSS as the new Staff Development, Quality Assurance & Training Manager. Mrs. Thomas will be assisting with the accreditation process until completed.

There were no changes to the agenda and no public comments.

The DSS Board approved the minutes from April 27, 2011 with correction on Page 6. Amendments will be made to correct the sentence to state, "Vice Chair Green inquired about additional business to be discussed before concluding the meeting".

Child Protective Services RBA - Interim Manager Betty Hughes

Child abuse reports are made via telephone, written and walk-in. Two Social Workers receive the calls and refer them to the Supervisor for screening.

Information needed when filing a report:

- Name of parents and children and children ages
- Address - phone number
- Condition of children, nature and extent of injuries
- Safety factors - weapons, drugs, domestic violence
- No need to prove allegations, reasonable grounds for suspecting
- Helpful to know of others who have information about the situation
- No name or permission required when filing reports

After the report is submitted

- Supervisor screens the reports and assigns it to an Investigative/Assessment Social Workers in one of the three units
- The reports are initiated within 24 to 72 hours
- Full investigation/assessment will be made to determine what course of action is needed if any is needed and should be completed within 30 to 45 days.

During the assessment

- Workers will make home visits, school visits and day care visit
- Interview each family member, reporter and anyone who has knowledge of the allegations
- Children Family Team (CFT) will meet with family and those involved
- Complete Risk Assessment and Strengths and Needs Tools
- Risk rating determines frequency of contacts
- Refer family for CPS In Home Services with recommendations
- Refer family to court with recommendations
- Make referrals for the family
- Close the case with recommendations

RBA - CPS In-Take

	Standard	DCDSS
• 6 month No Re-abuse	96%	99.6%
• 12 month No Re-abuse	90%	98%
• Remain in own home	95%	98.46%
• No Child Abuse deaths	00%	00%
• FA timely initiation	98%	98.26%
• Investigations timely initiation	98%	95.19%

RBA - CPS In-Take (continued)

• 45 day completion (FA)	80%	80.65%
• 30 day completion (Inv.)	80%	51.07%
• No Abuse with Prevention cases	94%	98%
• No Re-abuse in Parenting cases	97%	100%
• Remain in own Home	95%	99.04%
• Not enter DSS custody	95%	99.10%
• One year No Re-abuse	94%	99.9%
• No Child Abuse deaths	00%	00%

Board member asked question Kinship Care; Children are not moved during assessments. All grandparents are not qualified to be licensed by the State for various reasons. The Guardianship Assistance Program (GAP) began as Federal/State funding, current the GAP is funded through the County. The DSS Board thanked Ms. Hughes for the report. Chair Dunston asked for a follow-up on Kinship Care.

Homelessness Prevention Services MOU (Draft) - Bob Wallace

Mr. Wallace distributed a draft copy of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Durham County Department of Social Services (DCDSS) and the Durham Center. DCDSS is the primary representative of the MOU. Approximately 106 families have been served. Feedback from the County Manager and The Durham Center was positive and they look forward to the continuous partnership. Case manager Frank Bryant worked with 108 families and only one became homeless. The MOU will be reviewed and a response will be given at the May Board meeting. In a comparison HPRP assisted 106 families with funding of \$80,000, however, Emergency Assistance provided funding for more customers through Crisis Intervention Program (CIP) which funded \$1M.

Assistant Director's Report

Budget - Gerri Robinson

- The budget is still intact.
- DCDSS requesting only which is needed.
- David Carter will continue to assist with the budget.
- BOCC work session is scheduled in May and the BOCC will vote on the budget June 20, 2011.

Customer Accountability - Sharon Hirsch

(Detail report submitted in Board Packet)

- ❖ DSS Board thanked Mrs. Hirsch for tenure at DCDSS. Mrs. Hirsch resigned effective May 13, 2011.
- ❖ Preparation for COA continues and the information has been forwarded to Lynn Thomas.
- ❖ Deputy County Attorneys Danielle Briggs and Tim Jordan assisted with legal training.
- ❖ Approximately 21,098 calls were received in February and only 482 were not picked up.
- ❖ 414 staff participated in various training events in March.
- ❖ More details are in the report for Customer Accountability.

Family Economic Independence - Rhonda Stevens

(Detail report submitted in Board Packet)

- DACCA Wait List 1,534 families, 2119 children.
- Title IV-E Children served - 34
- Homeless Children served - 29 families/43 children
- Food and Nutrition Services visited TROSA and took 8 applications. No applications were taken at Urban Ministries.
- DACCA Task Force has met twice and will meet every other Friday. The four subcommittees have been identified and meet opposite weeks. A draft report is expected by May 20, 2011.

Family Safety and Permanency - John Holtkamp

(Detail report submitted in Board Packet)

- Child Protective Services Investigation unit will report to Mr. Holtkamp. This is a prioritized area.
- The North Carolina Association of County Commissioners awarded Durham County a 2010 "Outstanding County Program Award" for Computers 4 Kids. Housed out of the Department of Social Services, Computers 4 Kids is a collaborative initiative that provides surplus county computers to Durham Public Schools students who need a computer in the home. Computers 4 Kids is a partnership between Durham County Government, the Triangle United Way, the Volunteer Center and Durham Public Schools. Commissioner Bowser is a leader in this initiative. Michael Davis completed the application for the award.

DSS Board Chair Report - Chair Gladys Dunston

- Chair Dunston inquired about additional questions or comments.
- A motion was made to move into closed session (Closed Session pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6)).

Respectfully submitted

Chairperson

Date

Secretary to the Board

Date